

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED JUN 2 1976

DATE ENTERED SEP 1 1976

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORMSEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Fortsberg

AND/OR COMMON

Frederiksvaern

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

S E of Coral Bay

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Coral Bay

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

1

STATE

U.S. Virgin Islands

CODE

78

COUNTY

St. John

CODE

0700

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

☒ STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

☒ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

☒ UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☒ YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

COMMERCIAL

PARK

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

MILITARY

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Fred O. Samuel

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Cruz Bay, St. John

STATE

VICINITY OF U.S. Virgin Islands

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

No. 18 Kongens Gade

CITY, TOWN

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic American Building Survey

DATE

1960

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

National Park Service

CITY, TOWN

Washington

STATE

D.C.

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

___EXCELLENT
___GOOD
___FAIR

___DETERIORATED
☒RUINS
___UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒UNALTERED
___ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ORIGINAL SITE
___MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The ruins of Fortsberg, a typical 18th century citadel fortress, are located on the summit of a high hill commanding Coral Bay. Built over the ruins of an earlier breastwork completed in 1723, the present fort is a 120' by 60' rectangle with bastions at the salient angles. Laid out with the long sides on a southwest-northeast axis, the fort is one story in height with rubble masonry foundation and curtain walls, with brick linings at the door and window openings and at the corners. The curtains are battered on the exterior face and vary from 14 to 22 feet in height, due to the irregular terrain.

✓ The fort is entered through a sally-port in the southwest curtain. The door has a flattened pointed arch and is flanked by narrow windows now bricked in. There are also arched window openings in the north ends of both the northwest and southeast curtains, and an opening centered in the northeast wall, all of which are brick lined. No traces of the windows or the entrance door remain. Also, no roof structure remains in-situ, but there are indications that the bastions had flat, brick roofs resting on a wooded frame.

The south and west bastions were divided into two and three rooms respectively. A rectangular structure measuring 18 by 30 feet is located in the center of the court, built on an elevated rubble platform. This structure has a door in the southwest end wall and is served by a short run of masonry steps, which remain. The walls are rubble masonry, two feet thick, to a point approximating window sill height, with the upper part being of half timbered construction. There is no evidence of the original roof structure or form.

An enclosed staircase in the southeast corner of the fort connects the court level with a continuous walkway along the curtains and the gun decks over the corner bastions. The staircase, built against the curtain wall, is brick with brick supporting arches, and encloses a small vaulted cell under the top landing.

There also exists the ruins of a foundation for an unidentified structure 50 feet west of the entrance to the fort.

The Water Battery

Ruins of a supporting shore battery are located on a hill approximately 1000 feet southeast of the fort. A trapezoid in plan, three of the five foot thick, six foot six inch high rubble curtains remain, enclosing a space of approximately 37 by 54 feet. The interior of the battery is heavily overgrown with vegetation, but the three foot ten inch parapet wall with a continuous gun deck and seven embrasures are clearly visible. Five cannon, without their carriages, remain inside the battery.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER #3 PAGE one

The Virgin Island Government, Department of Conservation and Cultural Affairs has held internal discussions leading to a decision on the acquisition of all or a part of Fortsberg as an historic park. If acquired the Government would restore the structures where possible, stabilize the ruins and conduct a program of historic interpretation.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 6 PAGE two

U.S. Virgin Islands Inventory of Historic Places

May 1976 x State

Virgin Islands Planning Office

Charlotte Amalie U.S.V.I.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
☐ PREHISTORIC	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING	☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	☐ RELIGION
☐ 1400-1499	☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	☐ CONSERVATION	☐ LAW	☐ SCIENCE
☐ 1500-1599	☐ AGRICULTURE	☐ ECONOMICS	☐ LITERATURE	☐ SCULPTURE
☐ 1600-1699	☒ ARCHITECTURE	☐ EDUCATION	☒ MILITARY	☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
☒ 1700-1799	☐ ART	☐ ENGINEERING	☐ MUSIC	☐ THEATER
☐ 1800-1899	☐ COMMERCE	☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	☐ PHILOSOPHY	☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ 1900-	☐ COMMUNICATIONS	☐ INDUSTRY	☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)
		☐ INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The first fort, a stone breastwork, was constructed in 1717 as settlers moved to Coral Bay from nearby St. Thomas, under the aegis of the Danish West India and Guinea Company which laid out its first plantation, Carolina, nearby. The fort is shown on a 1720 map of Coral Bay. It was here that a successful rebellion was mounted on November 23, 1733. Slaves seized the fort, massacred the garrison and occupied most of the plantations of St. John. The plantation owners fled to Mr. Durlo's plantation, now Caneel Bay, which was fortified and successfully defended. Two attempts by the Danes to suppress the rebellion were unsuccessful. Finally aid was secured from the Governor of Martinique. Four hundred French soldiers encamped near Fortsberg and the rebellion was suppressed after a campaign of six months.

Fortsberg was rebuilt by 1760 into its present rectangular form with high walls, four bastions and gun decks. During the Napoleonic Wars the fort and adjacent "English Battery" were occupied by the British in 1801 and from 1807 until 1815.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Dookhan, Issac. A History of the VIRGIN ISLANDS of the UNITED STATES. Epping, Essex:
Bower Publishing Company, 1974.

Knox, John P. A Historical Account of St. Thomas, W.I. St. Thomas, W.I. New York: Charles Scribner, 1852.

Van Keulen Map, 1719

May of 1720, Atteiguing paa Ey landet St. Jans havn...

Oxholm May, 1780

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 101 acres.

UTM REFERENCES

A   
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C   

POINT									
A	180	20'	58"	N-	640	42'	20"	W	
B	180	20'	49"	N-	640	42'	08"	W	
C	180	20'	36"	N-	640	42'	11"	W	
D	180	20'	28"	N-	640	42'	32"	W	
E	180	20'	51"	N-	640	42'	35"	W	

B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The eastern boundary of Fortsberg Historic District starts at point "A" on Popilleau Bay, 600' east of East End Road and extends 1400' southeast following the mean high water mark to point "B". From this point it continues south 1,250' along the mean high water to point "C" turning southwest 2,150' to point "D" and then north 2,400 to point "E". The line crosses the base of the Fortsberg peninsula running northeast from point "E", 1,400 to the beginning point of the boundary.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Thomas R. Richards

Russell Wright, Annie Hillary, Margaret Proskauer, V.I. Historic Survey

ORGANIZATION*

DATE _____

Virgin Islands Planning Office

May 17, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P.O. Box 2606

(809) 774-1730

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, Virgin Islands

00801

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL X

STATE _____

LOCAL _____

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Director of Planning

DATE May 25, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE _____

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE _____

Acting KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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AUG 19 1976

DATE ENTERED

SEP 1 1976

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER #8 PAGE one

On-site inspections suggest that archeological investigation will probably add to our knowledge of the character of the earlier (pre-1800) fortifications on the site, as well as of associations with the St. John's slave rebellion of 1833 and the British occupation during the Napoleonic Wars.

Property

Fattsberg

State

V.I.

Working Number

6.2.76.35-25

St. John island
76002218

TECHNICAL

Photos

3

Maps

2

UTM ref. can't be checked

CONTROL

6.4.76

HISTORIAN

ACCEPT
Livingood
18 JE 76

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

The information here seems minimal. There is no statement supporting architectural significance - The statement of significance deals basically with the importance of the original fort but no mention of archeological activity is made in connection of this site. However given the program - this is all that could be - but I'm not really enthusiastic.

Accept
M.J. Lutz

6-17-76

I'm not really sure about the boundaries + their justifications

THERE IS NO MENTION OF THE ARCHEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL OF THE RUINS AND THE SURROUNDING GROUNDS.

ARCHEOLOGIST

8/17/76 See continuation sheet. Return
Accept. J. L. Mendez

7/22/76

OTHER.

HAER

Inventory _____

Review _____

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

tentative Accept
C. O. L.
6/28/76

BRANCH CHIEF

KEEPER

2/27/76
8.27.76

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered SEP 1 1976

Federal Register Entry

10-5-76

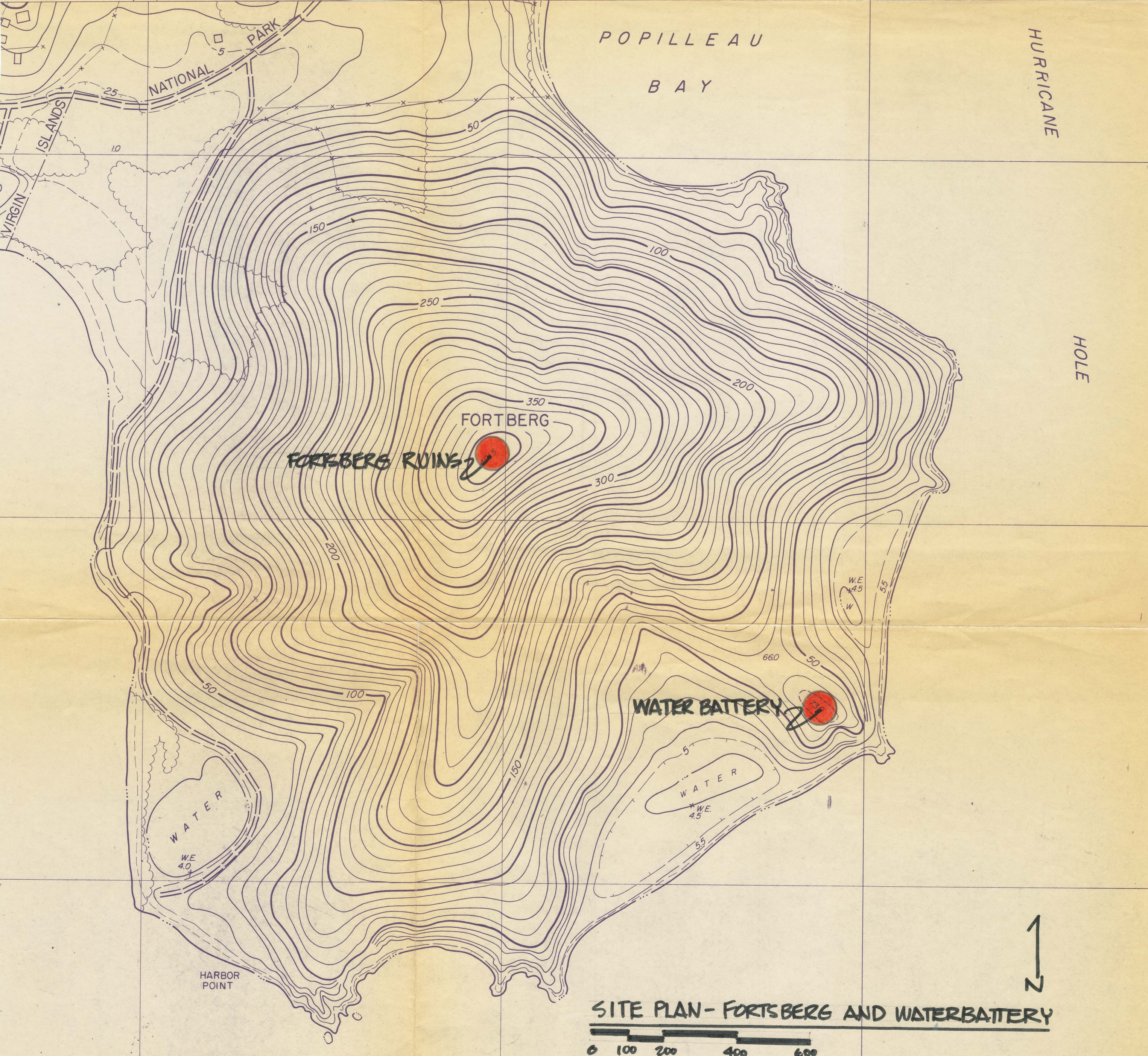
Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



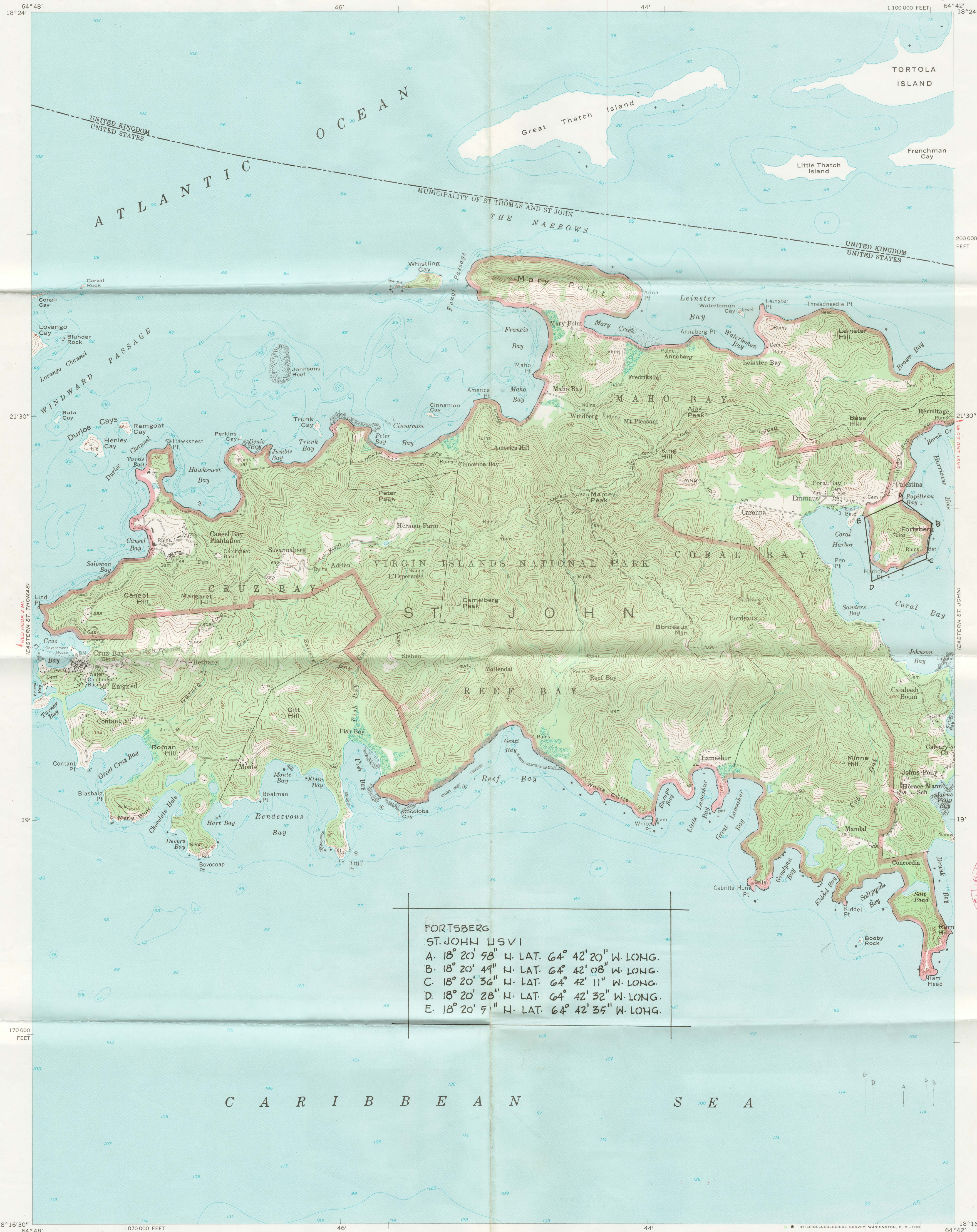






SITE PLAN - FORTSBERG AND WATERBATTERY





FORTSBERG
ST. JOHN USVI
A. 18° 20' 58" N. LAT. 64° 42' 20" W. LONG.
B. 18° 20' 49" N. LAT. 64° 42' 08" W. LONG.
C. 18° 20' 36" N. LAT. 64° 42' 11" W. LONG.
D. 18° 20' 28" N. LAT. 64° 42' 32" W. LONG.
E. 18° 20' 51" N. LAT. 64° 42' 35" W. LONG.



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USC&GS
Topography from aerial photographs by Kelsh plotter
Aerial photographs taken 1954. Field check 1958
Hydrography compiled from USC&GS charts 905 (1956) and 938 (1953)
Polyconic projection. Puerto Rican datum, 1940 adjustment
10,000-foot grid based on Puerto Rican coordinate system,
Virgin Islands extension
Unchecked elevations are shown in brown

TRUE NORTH
MAGNETIC NORTH
APPROXIMATE MEAN
DECLINATION, 1958

SCALE 1:24,000
1 0 1000 2000 3000 4000 5000 6000 7000 FEET
1 KILOMETER
CONTOUR INTERVAL 40 FEET
DOTTED LINES REPRESENT 20-FOOT CONTOURS
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL
DEPTH CURVES AND SOUNDINGS IN FEET—DATUM IS MEAN LOW WATER
SHORELINE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE APPROXIMATE LINE OF MEAN HIGH WATER
THE MEAN RANGE OF TIDE IS APPROXIMATELY 0.6 FEET

ROAD CLASSIFICATION
Light duty ————— Unimproved dirt —————

WESTERN ST. JOHN, V. I.
N1816.5—W6442/7.5X6

1958

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE VIRGIN ISLANDS

Date Entered SEP 1 1976

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Upper Salt River Archeological District	Christiansted vicinity St. Croix Island
Fortsborg	Coral Bay vicinity St. John Island
Hull Bay Archeological Sites	Charlotte Amalie vicinity St. Thomas Island

Also Notified

Hon. Ron de Lugo
Regional Director, Southeast
Region

PR MMott/row 9/3/76

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Thomas Blake
Planning Director
Virgin Islands Planning Board
Charlotte Amalie
St. Thomas, Virgin Islands 00801

NR Data Sheet

DATE: 18 Dec 76
 Reviewer: INITIALS: *KS*
 NR DOE
 SEP 1 1976

NAME AS IT APPEARS IN FEDERAL REGISTER: *Forttsberg*

OTHER NAMES: *Fredriksvaern C&C*

LOCATION:

STREET & NUMBER

SE of Coral Bay

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Virgin Is. 78

VICINITY OF

Coral Bay

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

code

St John Island 700

OWNER OF PROPERTY: (Circle)

☒ PRIVATE

☐ STATE

☐ LOCAL GOV'T

☐ MUNICIPAL

☐ COUNTY

☐ OTHER

HABS

ADMINISTRATOR (underline):

FEDERAL (AGENCY NAME):

NPS REGION: (CIRCLE)

☐ N. ATLANTIC

☐ MID ATLANTIC

☒ SOUTHEAST

☐ MIDWEST

☐ SOUTHWEST

☐ ROCKY MOUNTAIN

☐ WEST

☐ PACIFIC NORTHWEST

FEATURES:

INTERIOR

- ☐ Substantially intact-1
- ☐ unknown - 4
- ☐ not applicable - 7

X NO

EXTERIOR

- ☒ Substantially intact-2
- ☐ unknown - 5
- ☐ not applicable - 8

ENVIRONS

- ☒ Substantially intact-3
- ☐ unknown - 6
- ☐ Not applicable-9

☐ Interior, exterior, environs not intact-0

CONDITION -

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☒ RUINS

☐ UNEXPOSED

☐ Unexcavated

☒ UNALTERED

☐ ALTERED

☐ Reconstructed

☐ Excavated

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED

☐ Unknown

ACCESS -

☒ Yes-restricted

☐ Yes-unrestricted

☐ No access

☐ Unknown

historic district?

☐ YES

☒ NO

WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT?

IF YES, NAME:

☐ YES

☒ NO

WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK?

IF YES, NAME:

☐ YES

☒ NO

ADAPTIVE USE:

☐ YES

☒ NO

Saved?

☐ YES

☒ NO

FUNCTION(S): (use vocabulary words)

then- *FORT*

now- *AGRICULTURE*

SIGNIFICANCE:

☒ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC

☒ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC

☒ AGRICULTURE

☒ ARCHITECTURE

☐ ART

☐ COMMERCE

☐ COMMUNICATIONS

☐ CONSERVATION

☐ ECONOMICS

☐ EDUCATION

☐ ENGINEERING

☐ EXPLORATION

☐ INDUSTRY

☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

☐ LAW/Gov't/politics

☒ LITERATURE

☒ MILITARY

☐ MUSIC

☐ PHILOSOPHY

☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION

☐ SCIENCE

☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

☐ entertainment

☐ health

☐ recreation

☐ settlement

☐ socio/cultural

☐ urban & commun

☐ planning

Claims

"first"

YES

NO

"oldest"

YES

NO

"only"

YES

NO

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP: black, ~~Danish~~ Danish

NAMES:

(label role

&

appropriate date)

personal

events

Napoleonic Wars - British fort, 1801

institutional

DATES:

DATE OF CONSTRUCTION (Specific date or 1/4 of century):

~~1755~~ 1760 ✓

DATE(S) OF "MAJOR" ALTERATIONS:

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT DATE(S):

1717 first fort

1733 slave revolt

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

101

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

Typical 18th century fort, stone rubble, curtain walls,
one interior structure
some brickwork arches, enclosed staircase
On top of hill commanding Coral Bay.
Ruins, most roofs fallen in
Saltpetre on SW
One supporting shore battery

HABS

SIGNIFICANCE: (maximum two sentences)

An 18th century fort, built by Danish colonists on the site
of earlier fortifications commanding the bay. Site
of a successful slave rebellion in 1733.

ARCHITECTURAL STYLE:

architect/m.builder:

landscape/garden designer:

interior decorator:

engineer:

artist/artisan:

builder/contractor:

ETHNIC GROUP: *black, Danish*

NAMES:

(label role

&

appropriate date)

personal

events

Napoleonic Wars - British fort, 1801

institutional

DATES:

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1717 first fort

1733 slave revolt

SOURCE:

(OF NOMINATION)

PRIVATE

STATE

LOCAL GOV'T

MUNICIPAL

COUNTY

OTHER

FEDERAL AGENCY:

ACREAGE:

(to nearest tenth of an acre)

101

COMMENTS: (include architectural information here)

✓
✓
Ruins of rubble masonry fort; rectangular evidence of flat brick roofs on bastions, Sally port in SW curtain, center opening in NW wall, enclosed staircase to curtain walkway; ruins of one trapezoidal supporting shore battery. Built on ruins of earlier fort which was ~~1733 breastwork~~ *destroyed*

during a 6-month slave rebellion, in 1733, occupied by British during Napoleonic Wars.

of earlier fortifications commanding the bay. site of a successful slave rebellion in 1733.